

# Sovietology, a Western That Raises the Reds

By Arnold Beichman  
A Special Correspondent

Not long ago, a Soviet publication, *New Times*, devoted 2,500 vituperative words in English to "America's Anti-Sovieting Experts and Agencies." The article was directed against American universities, foundations and scholars like Professor Frederick C. Barghoorn. More than 20 years have created a quasi-social science which goes by the name of Sovietology. Or perhaps one should say it is the application of the social sciences to Soviet developments.

The reasons for Dr. Barghoorn's arrest by Soviet authorities three weeks ago may never be known, but the attitude towards scholars like him was described in the *New Times* tirade. American Sovietologists were indicted for "sabotage" and "espionage"; they were called "discredited politicians" and authors of "calumnious books" their contents full of "filthy anti-Soviet espionage and anti-Soviet slander." Quite obviously Moscow regards serious study of the Soviet Union with the hostility with which animal lovers regard blood sports or vivisection.

Despite such Soviet attacks (a second-rate Soviet novelist recently wrote a nasty novel on Western Sovietologists) Soviet studies have become a major activity in several hundred American institutions, including foundations and their privately-financed departments. How much is spent on such studies, excluding teaching of Russian, is simply incalculable except that it runs into millions of dollars annually.

## WHAT IT MEANS

Sovietology (which differs from "Kremlinology" defined as involved with gossip about the Kremlin pecking order) is the application of different academic disciplines—economics, sociology, history, finance, political science, psychology, philosophy, ethnology, esthetics, literature—to the study of the Soviet Union.

Russia probably receives more intense scholarly scrutiny than any other country in the world, not merely because of the cold war but because it is so difficult to know what is happening in that subcontinent. More than a century ago, the Marquis de Custine, a French journalist-traveller in Czarist Russia, wrote that "the professional mystifier of foreigners is known only in Russia." Custine's journal has been translated into English by Mrs. Kohler, wife of our Ambassador to Moscow.

Out of this concentrated, exhaustive study of the Soviet world has come an outpouring of more books, pamphlets and other publications it is safe to say, than in any other country in the world save our own.

The United States, it is agreed, has the finest collection of Russian and Soviet material anywhere in the world. The Library of Congress, the N. Y. Public Library, the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard's Widener Library, Cornell University, Stanford's Hoover Library have a right to be proud of their materials and files. When the British Library in London



*"... It may well be more important to know the trend of Russian communism and the views of individual members of the Politburo than it would be to have information as to the locations of particular Russian divisions."*

—Allen W. Dulles

development of the Russian railroad system or the quality of science teaching in modern Soviet academies all have their reading problems. But the scholar who devotes himself to current Soviet developments, whether in sociology or economics or literature, must read or skim a million

Two men accused of parlaying names cleaned from lonely hearts ads into an international business in pornography were held yesterday in \$2,500 bail each by Bronx Criminal Court Judge Samuel J. Christner for a hearing Wednesday. Edward J. Barrett, 50, of 38 E. 169th St., and Marvin Welles, 37, of 24 W. 70th St., charged with possession of pornography, used the names from the ads as the basis of their mailing lists.

After Mr. Schnitzer discovered the theft and called police, Gilbert was nabbed in the hallway of the building Friday.

Lonely Hearts victimized